

Response**REMARKS**

The following remarks are responsive to the points raised in the non-final Office Action mailed May 13, 2004. Claims 1-28 will be pending. No new matter has been introduced. Entry and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 4,562,463 to Lipton. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner urges that the applied prior art reference of Lipton discloses each limitation recited in Claims 1-28 of the present application. With respect to independent Claims 1, 8, 15, and 22, the Examiner specifically urges that Lipton discloses a system, method, and apparatus including:

- (1) “a detection unit for detection whether or not a stereoscopic compatible optical unit for stereoscopically sensing an optical [image] is mounted (See Lipton col. 11, lines 3-7)”;
- (2) “a signal processing unit for performing signal processing on an image, sensed by an image sensing device, by employing a first signal processing method or a second signal processing method compatible to stereoscopic image sensing, which is different from the first signal processing method (See Lipton col. 14, lines 18-35)”;
- (3) a “control unit for switching from the first signal processing method to the second signal processing method for the signal processing unit when the detection unit detects that the stereoscopic compatible unit is mounted (See Lipton col. 11, lines 8-30).”

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Lipton, at Column 11, Lines 3-7 discloses:

“A simple sensor device, such as a gear driven wheel in contact with the lens mount, or a snubber wheel, or a magnetic tape affixed to the lens mount read by a suitable magnetic head, may then convey positional information with regard to the focus and zoom setting.”

Here Lipton discloses the use of a sensor device, which may convey positional information with regard to focus and zoom settings. Such a sensor device, as described by Lipton, may be in the form of a gear driven wheel in contact with the lens mount, a snubber wheel, or a magnetic tape affixed to the lens mount read by a suitable magnetic head. No where within these words of Lipton is it seen where Lipton teaches or suggests that the “simple sensor device” functions to detect whether or not a stereoscopic compatible optical unit for stereoscopically sensing an optical image is mounted to the stereoscopic television system disclosed thereby.

Lipton, at Column 14, Lines 18-35, discloses:

“In FIG. 10 we see that the first odd field (F_{o1}) is stored in frame store A, and that the first even field (F_{e1}) is stored in store B. F_{o1} and F_{e1} make up the first picture unit which must be processed into a stereoscopic display unit. Store A cannot release field F_{o1} until such time as it is completely recorded and F_{e1} begins to be recorded by store B. Then it refreshes the CRT twice in the same unit of time that one field was incoming. Now A is ready to receive its fresh field, F_{o2} . Whilst this is occurring, B releases its field so that the CRT may be refreshed with two fields of F_{e1} . Thus one stereoscopic display unit of odd-odd-even-even, or right-right-left-left is seen by a viewer wearing an active (or passive selection device), with shutters occluding in synchronization with the refresh rate (or handedness of the display signal). (Passive glasses may also be used if polarization characteristics of the image are changing at the screen by means of electro-optical elements).”

Here Lipton discloses that the first odd and even fields that make up the first picture unit processed into a stereoscopic display unit, are stored in respective stores A and B. Store A, as disclosed by Lipton, cannot release the first odd field until it is completely recorded by store A

and store B begins to record the first even field. At this time, per Lipton, store A becomes ready to receive and store B releases its field allowing the display to be refreshed. In the Lipton device, one stereoscopic display unit of odd-odd-even-even, or right-right-left-left, is viewed using an active, or passive selection, device with shutters operating in synchronization with the refresh rate, or handeness, of the display signal. No where within these words of Lipton is it seen where Lipton teaches or suggests a signal processing unit for performing signal processing on an image, sensed by an image sensing device, by employing a first signal processing method or a second signal processing method compatible to stereoscopic image sensing, which is different from the first signal processing method. Lipton discloses, in Column 4, the first paragraph of the Summary of the Invention, that the stereoscopic television system thereof employs “techniques for taking and display of sequentially presented light and left image pairs... While the nature of the interlace is exploited to encode right and left picture information on respective odd and even fields....” As such, Lipton discloses the respective correspondence between odd and even with right and left.

Lipton, at Column 11, Lines 8-32, discloses:

“If such positional information has been previously calibrated in terms of the corresponding values of centration vector for focal length or focus distance, and stored in an electronic memory device, then standard data processing techniques may be used to control and translate the television raster in the vertical or horizontal direction in order to correct for recentration effects. Moreover, the cameraman or director may control convergence setting of the stereoscopic television camera by simply setting a horizontal shifting of the raster which may be precalibrated in terms of distance or angle or may be observed directly on a television screen as mentioned above.

The reader will note with references to FIG. 7A, field store or delay 43 is employed between the cameras and the composite video signal made up of both right and left fields. The purposes of this storage device, which may be a digital or analog device of appropriate design and specification known in the art, is to

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record and hold the field produced by left camera 38 so that it may be released after a delay of one field duration. In this way images taken by left and right cameras 38 and 39 respectively may be transmitted sequentially in accordance with the usual practice of the system of television interlace.”

Here Lipton discloses that if the positional information, i.e., “the positional information with regard to the focus and zoom setting” set forth above (Lipton, Column 11, Lines 3-7), has been previously calibrated and stored in memory, then standard data processing techniques” may be used in controlling and translating the television raster in both the vertical or horizontal directions to correct for the effects of recenteration. In addition, Lipton discloses that a field store, or delay, 43 is, as shown in Figure 7, is used between the cameras and the composite video for recording and holding the field produced by the left camera 38 so that such field may be released after a delay of a one field duration. On this basis, per Lipton, images obtained cameras 38 and 39 may be transmitted sequentially in accordance with usual television interlace. No where within these words of Lipton is it seen where Lipton teaches or suggests a control unit for switching from the first signal processing method to the second signal processing method for the signal processing unit when the detection unit detects that the stereoscopic compatible unit is mounted.

In view of the above, independent Claims 1, 8, 15, and 22 are distinguished over the prior art reference of Lipton. Dependent Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-21, and 23-28 are likewise distinguished of the prior art reference of Lipton for at least the same reasons base Claims 1, 8, 15, and 22, respectively. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-28 are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required for filing this Amendment and Request for Reconsideration to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4721.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

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By: 
Brian W. Brown
Registration No. 47,265
(202) 857-7887 Telephone
(202) 857-7929 Facsimile

Correspondence Address:
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
345 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10154
(212) 758-4800 Telephone
(212) 751-6849 Facsimile